

Message Text

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S E C R E T NICOSIA 3120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV PFOR CY TU GR

SUBJ: TURKISH MILITARY VIEW ON CYPRUS

SUMMARY: TURKISH MILITARY OFFICERS TAKING VERY HARD LINE ON SOLUTION PRESENT CRISIS, RULING OUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN BI-ZONAL STATE. WHILE DISCLAIMING ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARDS GREECE, AND VOCALLY SUPPORTING REINTEGRATION GREEK ARMED FORCES INTO NATO, THEY CLEARLY ANTICIPATE LARGER ROLE FOR TURKEY WITHIN ALLIANCE AND WINDFALL OF MILITARY AID. VIRTUALLY ALL EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR U.S. POLICY THUS FAR AND RECOGNIZE DELICACY OUR POSITION IN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO ALLIES. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH BRIG. GEN. ADNAN DOGU, GEN. DEMIREL'S CHIEF OF STAFF COL. MUSTAFA KATIRCIOGLU, AND KYRENIA MILITARY COMMANDER COL. SERTAC (AMONG OTHERS), IT CLEAR THAT MAINLAND MILITARY DETERMINED EFFECT COMPLETE GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION OF

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ISLAND'S TWO COMMUNITIES. SERTAC, SPEAKING TO AMBASSADOR SEPT

15, REPEATEDLY INSISTED THAT PARTITION (TAKSIM) IS ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION. DISTRICT OFFICER PARS TRANSLATED WORD INTO "GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION" BUT SERTAC'S INTENT WAS HARDER. ALL RANKING OFFICERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAVE MAINTAINED IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GREEKS AND TURKS TO LIVE TOGETHER. MOST THEY WILL AGREE TO IS THAT COMMUNITIES COULD LIVE SIDE BY SIDE, WITH DEFINITE BOUNDARIES.

2. DESPITE ABOVE, TURK MILITARY OFFICERS DISCLAIM ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARDS GREECE, THOUGH THERE IS A NOTE OF CONDESCENSION IN THEIR REFERENCES TO GREEK MILITARY CAPABILITIES. THEY INVARIABLY CLAIM THAT TURKEY WOULD WELCOME GREECE BACK INTO NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE, WHILE OFFERING TO FILL VOID LEFT BY GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL. CLEAR THAT THEY ANTICIPATE INCREASED MILITARY AID TO ENABLE THEM FILL THIS ROLE.

3. TURKISH OFFICERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN HAVE COMPARED FAVORABLY USG'S CURRENT POLICY WITH THAT FOLLOWED IN 1964 AND 1967. THEY FEEL WE HAVE BEEN EVEN-HANDED AND RECOGNIZE THE DELICACY OF OUR POSITION GIVEN FACT THAT WE ARE DEALING BETWEEN TWO ALLIES. IN RESPONSE, WE HAVE URGED TURKISH MILITARY LOCALLY TO BEHAVE IN MANNER WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE ASKED THAT THEY SHOW RESTRAINT AND HUMANITARIANISM IN EFFORT IMPROVE PUBLIC IMAGE IN U.S. IN DISCUSSING LATTER POINT, WE HAVE NOTED CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN PUBLIC OPINION, CONGRESS, AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

4. ON TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS AND SUBSEQUENT MILITARY ACTION, GEN. DOGU STATED DECISION TO LAND NEAR KARAVAS AND LIMIT INITIAL OBJECTIVE TO VIABLE CORRIDOR LINKING KYRENIA WITH NICOSIA ENCLAVE WAS POLITICAL ONE. MILITARY WOULD HAVE PREFEREED LANDING AT MORPHOU, FAMAGUSTA, OR BOTH, AND DRIVING ACROSS CENTRAL PLAIN. HE ESTIMATED THIS WOULD HAVE TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 48 HOURS TO ACHIEVE.

5. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ALL OF ABOVE OFFICERS AND, WE ARE TOLD, ALMOST ENTIRE MAINLAND TURKISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP ON ISLAND PREVIOUSLY SERVED HERE EITHER WITH CONTINGENT OR CLANDESTINELY WITH T.M.T. (TURK CYPRIOT PARA-MILITARY FORCE). ALL HAVE BITTER MEMORIES OF "HUMILIATIONS" INFLICTED UPON THEM BY GREEK CYPRIOTS AND

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UNFICYP. DOGU RECOUNTED AT LENGTH THE HOURS HE SPENT ON FAMAGUSTA PIER, DURING ROTATIONS, WHILE UNFICYP CHECKED HIS RICE BAGS FOR MUNITIONS. HE, AND OTHER TURKISH OFFICERS, ARE NOT INCLINED BE CHARITABLE NOW.

6 ADDITIONALLY, TURKISH OFFICERS WHO SERVED HERE BEFORE REGARD CURRENT UNFICYP COMMANDERS (PARTICULARLY PREM CHAND) AS PRO-GREEK AND ARE INCLINED TO BE EXTREMELY

SUSPICIOUS OF ANY SUGGESTIONS THEY OFFER. ALL OF OUR CONTACTS WANT UNFICYP OUT OF THEIR ZONE. THIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR FUTURE.

7. TURKISH OFFICERS OPENLY STATE THEY INVADED ISLAND TO ENHANCE TURKEY'S SECURITY AND NOT OUT OF ANY CONCERN FOR TURK CYPRIOTS. INDEED, THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR COMPATRIOTS IS ONE OF THINLY DISGUISED CONTEMPT. IN THEIR VIEW, T.M.T. FOUGHT POORLY AND T.C.P.A. (TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION) HAS DEMONSTRATED IT UNABLE ADMINISTER ENLARGED AREA WITHOUT DIRECT MAINLAND SUPERVISION.

8. ATTITUDE BEST SUMMED UP BY SERTAC (WHO WAS CLANDESTINE COMMANDER OF NICOSIA IN 1964) WHEN HE SAID "THESE TURK CYPRIOTS, THEY'LL STEAL ANYTHING". HE SAID HE HAD TO SHOOT SEVERAL IN 1964 TO STOP LOOTING AND IS EQUALLY DETERMINED RESTORE ORDER NOW. IN FACT, WE JUDGE THAT HE HAS IMPROVED SITUATION IN KYRENIA CONSIDERABLY. SERTAC ANTICIPATES OPENING TOWN TO TURK CYPRIOT AND FOREIGN PUBLIC WITHIN WEEK. IT APPEARS THAT HE, AND HIS FELLOW OFFICERS, PERCEIVE NEED FOR THEM TO BE ON ISLAND, RUNNING LOCAL AFFAIRS, FOR AN INDEFINITE FUTURE.
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